

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. SPECIFICATION

By this paper the title is amended. This amendment to the title is believed to resolve the objections of the 12/29/06 Office Action at page 2. Applicant notes, however, that the title has been amended to enable the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and gist of the technical disclosure and to aid indexing, classifying and searching. 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(a); MPEP § 606.01. This amendment is *not* intended to narrow, limit, alter or otherwise characterize what Applicants' regard as their invention. It is, of course, the claims and not the title that defines the invention being claimed.

No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

II. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this paper, claims 1-5 and 7-8 are amended.

Claim 1 is amended to recite a camera comprising, *inter alia*, "a gain control circuit which amplifies the image signal output from the image-pickup device based on a gain value set by the control circuit, wherein the control circuit changes the gain value of the gain control circuit and the exposure time of the image-pickup device based on whether the shake

correction unit is in operation or not.” Support for these amendments may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including, for example, at ¶ [0068].

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8 are amended to clarify that “the control circuit sets the gain value of the gain control circuit.” Support for these amendments may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including, for example, at ¶ [0060].

No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Office Action has rejected and claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C 102 (b) as being anticipated by Washisu (U.S. Patent no. 6,091,448). Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102 (e) as being anticipated by Ishikawa (U.S. Pub. No.: 2002/0196347 A1). Claims 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washisu in view of Takahashi (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0080247 A1) and Hamamura (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0133021). Finally, Claims 3 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washisu in view of Takahashi and Hamamura and further in view of Kaneda (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,437).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the pending claims and of the prior art in the stated rejections, and traverses these rejections.

1. Claims 1, 11 Are Not Anticipated By, And Are Patentably Distinct From Washisu

The Office Action has rejected and claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C 102 (b) as being anticipated by Washisu. Applicant disagrees and respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11

as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from Washisu taken alone or in combination with other cited references.

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify an aspect of the present invention, which Applicant submits distinguishes the claimed invention from the cited prior art at least in this regard. Specifically, Applicant's claim 1 recites:

1. A camera which takes images through an image-taking optical system including a shake correction unit which drives a part of the image-taking optical system to correct image blur caused by camera shake, comprising:
 - an image-pickup device which converts an optical image of an object formed by the image-taking optical system into image signal;
 - a control circuit which controls operations of the camera;
 - and
 - a gain control circuit which amplifies the image signal output from the image-pickup device based on a gain value set by the control circuit,
 - wherein the control circuit changes the gain value of the gain control circuit and the exposure time of the image-pickup device based on whether the shake correction unit is in operation or not.

Washisu teaches that, in order to determine the exposure to the imaging plane during the image-taking operation, the aperture value and the shutter speed are to be calculated. However, Washisu is silent with regard to the gain value of the gain control circuit and the exposure time of the image-pickup device being changed based on whether the shake correction unit is in operation or not. That is, Washisu does not teach, disclose or suggest "a gain control circuit which amplifies the image signal output from the image-pickup device based on a gain value set by the control circuit, wherein the control circuit changes the gain value of the gain

control circuit and the exposure time of the image-pickup device based on whether the shake correction unit is in operation or not”, as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Washisu and is in allowable form. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is in allowable form.

2. *Claims 1, 11 Are Not Anticipated By, And Are Patentably Distinct From Ishikawa*

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102 (e) as being anticipated by Ishikawa. The Office Action contends that Ishikawa discloses the camera system recited in Applicant’s claim 1. Applicant disagrees and respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11 as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from Ishikawa taken alone or in combination with other cited references.

As discussed above, Applicant has amended the claims to clarify an aspect of the present invention, which Applicant submits distinguishes the claimed invention from the cited prior art at least in this regard.

Review of Ishikawa shows that it teaches controlling the exposure to the image pickup device during the image-taking operation by changing the opening of the diaphragm. However, Ishikawa is silent with regard to the gain value of the gain control circuit and the exposure time of the image-pickup device being changed based on whether the shake correction unit is in operation or not. That is, Ishikawa does not teach, disclose or suggest “a gain control circuit which amplifies the image signal output from the image-pickup device based on a gain value set by the control circuit, wherein the control circuit changes the gain value of the gain

control circuit and the exposure time of the image-pickup device based on whether the shake correction unit is in operation or not”, as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Ishikawa and is in allowable form. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is in allowable form.

3. *Claims 2, 4-11 Are Patentably Distinct From Washisu Taken Alone Or In Combination With Takahashi, Hamamura And Kaneda*

Claims 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washisu in view of Takahashi and Hamamura. Claims 3 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Washisu in view of Takahashi and Hamamura and further in view of Kaneda.

Applicant disagrees and respectfully submits that claim 1, and claims 2 and 4-11 depending therefrom, as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from Washisu taken alone or in combination with Takahashi, Hamamura and Kaneda.

As an initial matter, for the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is not taught, suggested or disclosed by Washisu. Further, review of the respective disclosures of Takahashi, Hamamura and Kaneda shows that none of them teach, suggest or disclose “a gain control circuit which amplifies the image signal output from the image-pickup device based on a gain value set by the control circuit, wherein the control circuit changes the gain value of the gain control circuit and the exposure time of the image-pickup device based on whether the shake correction unit is in operation or not”, as recited in Applicant’s claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Washisu taken alone or in combination with Takahashi, Hamamura and Kaneda. Consequently, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2 and 4-11, are patentably distinct from Washisu taken alone or in combination with Takahashi, Hamamura and Kaneda.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as an admission that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

4. *Dependent Claims*

Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing objections be withdrawn as being overcome or otherwise rendered moot.

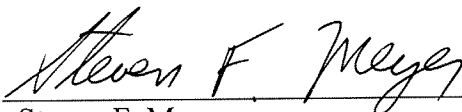
CONCLUSION

For at least the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5141.

Respectfully submitted,
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